Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 20, Number 2 February 2003

A Word from the Bishop, Wm Chris Boerger

"Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters."

1 Corinthians 1:10-11

Conflict In Our Congregations

In the December issue of *Soundings* I commented that I was looking forward to December because there would be time to catch-up on paper work and to study. The truth is that it did not turn out that way. That hoped for quiet time turned into time for addressing conflict in congregational life.

The Rev. Speed Leas of The Alban Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, has defined five levels of conflict. This definition is very helpful in analyzing when outside intervention is needed and what the probable outcomes of any intervention will be. His theory is that all congregations have some form of conflict. A Level One conflict is a problem to solve. We should all pray to have more level one conflicts. This is where the proclamation of the gospel intersects with the reality of our world.

A Level Two conflict is a disagreement. This does not require outside help. This may

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Conflict In Our Congregations

trigger the kind of change and creativity that would help us to respond more effectively to God's call. My observation is that we are afraid to confront our disagreements in honest and supporting ways. It is in this difficult work of working through disagreement that we reach an agreed upon solution.

A Level Three conflict is a contest. The focus is no longer the problem and there is no desire to work through our disagreements. Now the goal is to win. In most contests there are rules and, most often, a referee or umpire to help us out in our disagreements. In church conflicts, at Level Three, this is when we should ask for outside help. We should ask the Synod for guidance, but we do not and then we complain when the conflict gets serious or does not go away.

"In church conflicts, at level three, this is when we should ask for outside help."

My experience is that congregations wait until they reach Level Four before asking for help. At this level, there are those who say that they demand their own way or they are leaving. If a congregation reaches this level, there will be people who leave regardless of the outcome or the intervention. The intervention is designed to refocus the congregation on the ministry and work to empower those who remain to accomplish their tasks.

Finally, there is a Level Five conflict where the goal is to punish the opponent. Winning is not enough. Those who win want revenge on the opponent/s and they work to damage them personally or professionally. The church is not equipped to handle this type of conflict and the goal is to use societal authorities to protect those involved.

I write this with the hope that the Synod could be involved at the contest level of conflict, the Third Level. We have people who are trained to effectively work in congregations at this level. The problem is that seldom are is the Synod called in to help at this level. The next level, Level Four, will damage congregational life and those working in congregations. I pray that we can address conflicts earlier. There is no congregation that does not have some problem to solve, some conflict. The question is not how to avoid conflict, but how to use it to focus our ministry and build up the body of Christ.

News From The Synod

Kneaded by the Master

By Terry Kyllo, Board of Outreach and Evangelism Chair

When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." Mark 6:35-36

Many in our culture have been starving for meaning and community for so long they don't know that they are hungry any more. Despite the wealth and abundance that surrounds us, we are starving, and many of us don't even know it anymore—numb to our hunger.

The church's ministry is to give the sustaining bread of meaning and community to this hungry world. Sometimes we forget we are supposed to take the bread to them, thinking that "open doors" alone will bring them in. Sometimes we forget we have bread that is substantially different from the "unhappy meals" of consumerism, eternal progress, or human mastery over the world.

This year's Synod Assembly is called ***Kneaded by the Master.*** The Board of Outreach and Evangelism thought this would be a fruitful theme for many reasons. One of the fruits of this theme is that it reminds us that we have not called ourselves into this ministry any more than we have called ourselves into being. The Master who calls us into ministry provides what is needed to feed the starving masses of people, some of whom are so wrapped up in meaningless toil and false community that they don't even know that the real stuff is available.

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2003 Synod Assembly Theme: *Kneaded by the Master*

The 2003 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will be held on Friday, May 16, and Saturday, May 17, at Trinity in Lynnwood. (Yes, the Synod Assembly is returning to Trinity. Thank you to Trinity's rostered personnel and congregation for making the Synod feel so welcome.)

The 2003 co-chairs are Rev. Dick Wendt (Edmonds-Lynnwood Parish) and Rev. Mark Saline (Harbour Pointe, Mukilteo). Pastor Terry Kyllo (Celebration, Anacortes) is also helping the Assembly committee

The theme of the 2003 Synod Assembly is *Kneaded by the Master.* Pastors Wendt, Saline and Kyllo are bringing their enthusiasm and knowledge to help the Synod learn about transformational ministry (also known as renewing congregations).

More information about Transformational Ministry or Renewing Congregations can be found on the ELCA website at www.elca.org/do.

Can You Help?

by Michelle Brekhus, member of Our Saviour's in Stanwood

Brenda Mendez, my father Pastor Don Brekhus and myself visited Ethiopia this past summer. We visited Ethiopia because we wanted to see the country in which we had sent money to support the construction of several church buildings. (The Northwest Washington Synod is in companion synod relationship with the North Central Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus.)

While there, we visited many Lutheran churches and spent some time at Haik Orphanage. Lutherans from Finland have been funding this orphanage for over a decade, but they can no longer raise support to keep this orphanage running.

The Northwest Washington Synod's Global Missions Committee has approved and endorsed efforts to raise the $43,570 needed per year to keep Haik Orphanage open. This money will provide 84 orphans with food, clothing, education and medical care. It will also cover staff salaries and administrative costs. A contribution of $500 from each congregation per year would ensure the continued operation of Haik Orphanage. Please send your contributions to: Northwest Washington Synod/Region1 FSO, 766 John St. Suite B, Seattle, WA 98109-5112. Be sure to specify that the money is for Haik Orphanage Ethiopia code #242. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Brekhus at 360-629-3767.

Don't Know Much About...

Our Companion Synods

The Northwest Washington Synod has companion synod relationships with the North Central Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (ELCROS).

If you are connected to the internet you can easily learn the history of our two companion synods. You can also share authentic recipes from these countries or even make a craft project or two. There is also information about World Hunger projects that show what and how the ELCA is helping in these countries. Please remember to keep these companion synods in your prayers. There is even a Prayer Venture for each of our companion synods.

Where do you find all this wonderful information? For the North Central Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus go to www.elca.org/dgm/country_packet/ethiopia/church.html. For the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States go to www.elca.org/dgm/country_packet/russia/elcros.html.

To learn more about the Division for Global Mission and what the ELCA is doing around the world, please visit www.elca.org/dgm.

Keeping You In Touch

News From Augsburg Fortress

Since joining Augsburg Fortress as President & CEO in September 2002, Beth Lewis has held dozens of listening posts with ELCA leaders; from pastors to Christian ed directors, from seminary presidents and faculty to authors, from altar guild volunteers to worship and music directors and many more.

One constant question she has asked is "How can we provide you with information about our products and services in a way that will really help you and not overload you with information?" The answer she has heard over and over again is "Send occasional, targeted email newsletters that tell me only about the products and services in my areas of interest."

So, Augsburg Fortress has added a new, easy-to-use page to their website where you can subscribe (or unsubscribe) to receive newsletters and information only in your areas of interest. Do you want to know more about confirmation materials, but you don't care about other education products? You can be that specific.

Or, you may want to select multiple areas of interest. That works, too!

Just tell Augsburg your area(s) of interest and they'll send you *just* that information.

Should you change your mind later, all you have to do is tell let Augsburg know and you'll be taken off of the email list within one business day.

To sign up, just go to www.augsburgfortress.org/enewsletter/. It shouldn't take more than one minute to complete and you'll receive periodic information that will assist you in your ministries!

First Lutheran of Richmond Beach Celebrates 100!

On February 20, 1903, three families met in the Shoreline area and The Scandinavian Lutheran Free Church was organized as a congregation. Later the name was changed to First Lutheran of Richmond Beach, and one hundred years later, we celebrate that milestone.

A *Norwegian Celebration Service*, will be held at 8:30 and 11 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 16. (Wear your bunads and Norwegian sweaters!) Between services, the congregations will celebrate the ethnicity of the congregation with an intergenerational event.

A second *Service of Celebration* will be led by Bishop Chris Boerger at 8:30 and 11 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23. Following the this service, there will be an open house and buffet lunch.

Please plan to join the congregation on February 16 and 23. First Lutheran is located at 18354 Eighth Ave NW, Shoreline. For more information, call 206-546-4153.

Tent City at Phinney Ridge

by Liesl Pyle, Minister of Outreach at Phinney Ridge, Seattle

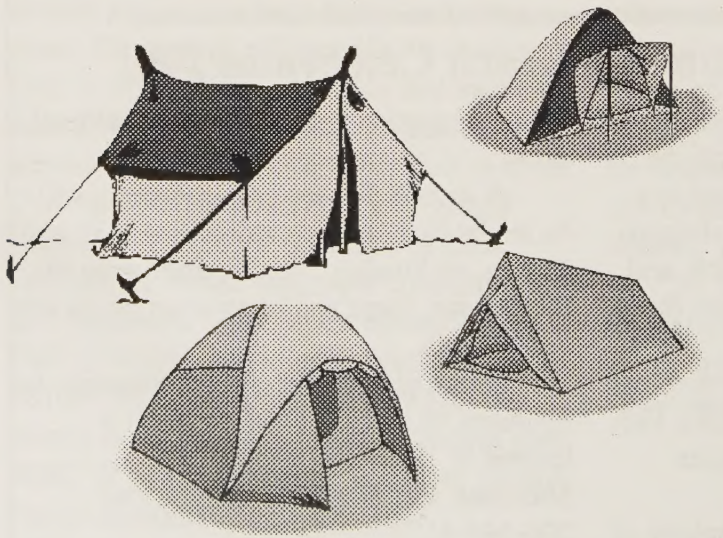
What a joy and blessing it has been to host the outdoor homeless shelter called *Tent City.*

For five weeks, 80 people slept in tents on our front lawn. It was not much, but at least it was a place for many to call home. The decision to host *Tent City* was made unanimously by the church council after many months of education, discussion and meetings with the congregation, child care families and neighbors. The congregation discerned that hosting *Tent City* was what we are "called to do" as Christians.

For many it was a long process of education. All of us have stereotypes about the homeless. Many believe that the homeless are lazy or drunks or they choose to live on the streets. Many have fears that homeless people are dangerous or are criminals. People who are homeless are just that, people. They are God's children who have fallen on difficult times. There are as many reasons why individuals and families become homeless, as there are homeless persons.

Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church and the neighborhood were blessed beyond words when we opened up our front lawn. The outpouring of support and kindness multiplied in the community. Many restaurants donated food or hosted a free meal. A hairdresser offered free haircuts and a chiropractor offered free adjustments.

The church hosted five Sunday evening dinners and a Christmas dinner, that not only included *Tent City* residents and church members but also many community neighbors. We opened up our doors to the entire community.



The work has been done to prepare a congregation to host *Tent City* and we encourage more Lutheran congregations to consider this ministry opportunity. It cost little, but provides much. If you have any questions about hosting *Tent City* please call me at 206-783-2350.

We can make a difference and we must!

State Advocate's Corner

by Rev. Paul B. Benz, Director; Lutheran Public Policy Office

Epiphany greetings to you! As you read this the legislature will have already been through its first three weeks! As I write this the session has yet to begin!

Once again there are many critical issues before our state legislature for all of you to be aware of and involved in as advocates for *the least of these in our midst*. However, this year is different in that our state has never faced such a large deficit, $2.4 billion! Almost all 50 states are facing a deficit of some kind and most, like ours, have a balanced budget constitutional requirement. Governor Locke's proposed budget, released on Dec. 16, called for no new revenue. Instead, it balances the budget through cuts in government programs, laying off state employees (2,500) and "rolling back" three initiatives (two education initiatives worth $450 million in savings and the cigarette tax initiative dedicated for health care).

As a people of faith we have to ask ourselves "W*hat is the vision we have for our state*?" Particularly in terms of how will *the least of these in our midst*—from the children, to the working poor and to the elderly—be properly and adequately cared for and empowered? In the Governor's proposed budget some Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) programs are eliminated or have severe cuts. Examples are:

- GAU (General Assistance Unemployable) cut by $40 million, affecting 6,600 adults, the poorest of the poor.
- Elimination of Health Insurance (Basic Health Plan) for 59,800 childless adults.
- Elimination of the Medically Indigent program ($40 million). This program provides emergency medical coverage for those who have no other way to pay for it.
- Children's Administration, Division of DSHS, cut by $60 million. This division received the second largest cut of any state agency.

In closing, please remember to call that 1-800-562-6000 and leave a message of compassion, justice and hope for your three state legislators. The following message is one that Lutheran Public Policy recommends: ***"Do not balance the budget on the backs of the poor, the vulnerable and households struggling to make ends meet. Maintain the current funding levels for critical human service programs that have been cut or eliminated in the governor's proposed budget for the next biennium by raising revenue. Use your leadership to work on reforming our regressive tax structure to make it more equitable, sufficient and sustainable so that it will raise more revenue to meet the critical needs of our state—human services, education and transportation."***

As always I remain available to come to your church. You can contact me at 206-694-5772 or by email at pbenz@lcsnw.org.

Epiphany Speaker Series

Dr. Michael Rogness, Luther Seminary, will be the featured guest speaker at Zion Lutheran Church in Kent, from January 31 through February 2, 2003. Dr. Rogness is the keynote speaker for *Zion's 4th Annual Epiphany Speaker Series*. Call Zion at 253-631-0100 for more information.

Friday, January 31—6 p.m. a potluck dinner; 7 to 8 p.m. a forum on the topic *TV, Movies, Computer Games—How to Live with Them*

Saturday, February 1—7 to 8:30 p.m. a forum on the topic *TV, Movies, Computer Games... continued;* 8:30 p.m. a dessert reception

Sunday, February 2—9:45 to 10:45 a.m. a forum on the topic *What is a Lutheran—Among So Many Other Denominations?;* 2 to 3:30 p.m. a forum on the topic *Angels Around Us*

Camping Caravan to LWF

The Lutheran World Federation Assembly is being held in Winnipeg, Manitoba from July 21-31, 2003. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) is organizing a camping caravan that will originate in British Columbia. It is planned so that people can meet up with the caravan at several points. To learn more about the camping caravan please contact Pastor Tim LeDrew at Peace Lutheran Church in Vernon, British Columbia. He can be reached from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, at: 250-545-5787. Registration deadline is April 15, 2003.

New Program For You

at Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center, Bellingham

The summer of 2003 at Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center is the beginning of a new program for active and retired pastors.

Camp Lutherwood is inviting retired and active pastors to come and spend a week at the camp. Families are invited and your week's stay is at no charge. All the staff asks is that you be available as a resource person. As a resource person you will be available to talk with the summer counselors regarding matters of faith. The Camp also likes the idea of having someone on hand who has a good foundation in theological matters.

So, plan now to spend a week at Camp Lutherwood in 2003. You will be doing a great service for the Camp. Camp Lutherwood is the place where many pastors say was the turning point in their faith life and that led them onto being a pastor.

Come and play too. There are canoes, sailboats, trails for hiking or bring your fishing gear.

The Spirit Lodge is a gorgeous new log cabin less than 50 feet from the lake. It has a fully furnished kitchen.

There are 11 slots available for the summer. For more information contact Bob Merrill, Operations Manager, at 1185 Roy Road, Bellingham, WA 98229; or telephone at 360-734-7652.

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Kneaded by the Master

After the Synod Assembly ends on Saturday at 5 p.m. the Board of Outreach and Evangelism is sponsoring two additional events:

- *Your congregation can be healthy and vital.*— 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 17
- *Your congregation can help sponsor a new congregation*—2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 18

Author and Mission Director Clair Burkat, our speaker throughout the Assembly, will also be with us during these two events to help guide our discussion. (For information about the Synod Assembly, please see page 3.)

Please consider joining us for these two events, or simply one of them. You need not have attended the Synod Assembly to attend. Bring others from your congregation to hear from Claire Burkat. For your convenience both the Synod Assembly and *Kneaded by the Master* will be held at Trinity in Lynnwood. However, there will be a separate registration for *the Keaded by the Master* events.

Through these events the Synod's Board of Outreach and Evangelism hopes that we will reflect and remember that we are *Kneaded by the Master*, to bring bread to a hungry world – and that we are constantly being changed to do this ministry by that same Master.

Editor's Note: For more information about *Kneaded by the Master* contact Rev. Terry Kyllo at 360-299-3225 or email terry.kyllo@celebrationlc.org. For information about the Synod Assembly contact Rev. Dick Wendt at 425-774-6000 or email WendtRL@aol.com; or Rev. Mark Saline at 425-823-2727 or email hpelc@kendra.com.

Board of Pensions News

Retirement Changes In Effect

ELCA Retirement Plan changes are in effect. Do you know what to expect? Listen to a light-hearted summary of retirement plan changes at www.elcabop.org/news_events/plan_changes/retirement_plan (select Car Chat at left)

Flexible Spending Accounts

Flexible spending accounts can help employees manage out-of-pocket expenses such as health care or day care costs by allowing them to set aside payroll dollars on a pre-tax basis. For information about partial-year plans available in 2003 as well as full-year options for 2004 see www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/administrators/fsa.asp

Employer News Tips

If you know someone who could benefit from receiving the employer-news e-mail newsletter, encourage them to subscribe at www.elcabop.org/news_events/email_newsletter.asp or by sending an e-mail to listserv@boplist.elcabop.org with the message "subscribe EMPLOYER-NEWS your full name" (leave subject line blank).

New Doctor of Ministry Program at Luther

Luther Seminary's new program in Congregational Mission and Leadership is designed to equip pastors to revitalize existing congregations and develop new ones. It incorporates seminar-based education with peer learning, self-directed learning, integrative experiences, field research and skill development. Acknowledging the hectic pace of congregational life, the curriculum is challenging, yet it can be customized to meet individual interests and needs. It combines the flexibility and structure necessary for students to complete the degree in five years.

For more information about the program, go to www.luthersem.edu/dmin. Please note that the application deadline for the new 2003-04 class is March 1, 2003.

Clergy Mediation Seminars

Mediation Training Institute (MTI) of Kansas City and Wolbrecht Mediation Services of Bellevue are offering core competency seminars in conflict resolution to clergy:

- ***The Self-as-Mediator*** ("Getting others to work with you, not against you"); Thursday, Feb. 20
- ***The Manager-as-Mediator*** ("Helping members and staff to do good ministry together"); Thursday, Feb. 27

Both seminars will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check-in begins at 8:30. Lunch is not included. Cost is $75/seminar (usual cost is $245/seminar). Instructors are Rev. Tim Wolbrecht and Larry Birckhead, V.P. MTI. For more information or registration, please email tim_wolbrecht@hotmail.com, or telephone 425-454-8397. Deadline is February 16.

Summer Learning In Wittenberg, Germany

The ELCA Wittenberg Center is currently offering a summer, 2003, learning opportunity in Germany. Dr. Mary Jane Haemig, Reformation scholar and professor, will lead the German travel seminar *Martin Luther: Reformer in His Own Time and Today* from June 1-14, at the Wittenberg continuing education center of the ELCA.

This travel seminar, in addition to offering seven expert lectures by Dr. Haemig and five presentations by German specialists, will include visits to Berlin, Wittenberg, Eisleben, Halle, Torgau, Leipzig, Buchenwald, Erfurt, Weimar, Eisenach, Marburg, Mainz and Worms.

This is an excellent opportunity to earn continuing education units (CEU's). The cost is $1960 per person plus airfare. For information, contact Marlene DeWulf at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 6551, or visit www.elca.org/ewbc.

Bread for the World

Mark your calendar to meet David Beckman, president of *Bread for the World.* Hear him share about Bread's 2003 Offering of Letters issue, *RISE to the Challenge: End World Hunger.*

This program will urge Congress to fully fund and to include key issues in President Bush's proposed dramatic increase in the US foreign assistance budget to help poor countries improve their situation and work with the UN Sponsored Millennium Development goals.

David will be a keynote speaker at:

- **Friday, March 21**—5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 1110 Fourteenth St., Bellingham. Event starts with Soup Supper. For more information contact Mary Mele at 360-671-0238 or email at mhmele3@attbi.com. Please pre-register by sending your name and phone number to bread4tricountys@yahoo.com
- **Saturday, March 22**— 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at University Congregational United Church of Christ, 4515 Sixteenth Ave. NE, Seattle. For more information contact Carol Wall at 360-679-1574 or email at carol@ebrainworks.com. Please pre-register by sending your name and phone number to bread4seattle@yahoo.com.
- **Monday, March 24**—Noon , Brown Bag Lunch. Sponsored by The Washington Association of Churches and Council of Churches of Greater Seattle. Questions call Pastor Paul Benz at 206-694-5772.

Region 1 Pastoral Conference

Make your plans now to attend the Region 1 Pastoral Conference April 28- May 1 at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, British Columbia. The Planning Committee has been working hard, and has secured two excellent speakers: Pastor Steve McKinley and Bradley Hanson.

Pastor Steve McKinley from House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Richfield, Minn, writes the *Pastor Loci* column in *Lutheran Partners* magazine. His wit and insight has been helpful to many. Bradley Hanson, Director of Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation and Professor Emeritus of Religion at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, has authored six books, the newest of which is *A Graceful Life: Lutheran Spirituality of Today (2000)*. He is currently working on another book on Lutheran spirituality for Orbis Press.

Registration information was mailed in January. Costs are: $350/person, double occupancy, $500/single occupancy. Conference and meals without lodging is $210. Registration deadline is March 15. Space cannot be guaranteed after that date.

For more information check the web site for Kent Lutheran Church, http://home.att.net/kentlutheran.

This is the only independent regional event regularly held. We hope you will show your support by registering early.

ELCA 2003 Churchwide Assembly

The ELCA 2003 Churchwide Assembly theme is: *Making Christ Known: For The Healing of the World.*

This is a departure from the announced theme *Listen, God is Calling* and was adopted, upon recommendation of the Conference of Bishops, in order to echo the theme of the Tenth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation to be held in July in Manitoba. (See related article page 8.)

At the 2002 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly voting members elected 11 people to attend the Churchwide Assembly. These voting members are: Carlos Aguero, Fir-Conway in Mount Vernon; Fritz Baesman, Nativity in Renton; Rev. Jan Nesse, First Lutheran of Richmond Beach in Shoreline; Cliff Bronson, Associate in Ministry, Trinity in Lynnwood; Luz Maria Cabrera, Burlington in Burlington; Mary Jones, Associate in Ministry, First Lutheran of Richmond Beach in Shoreline; Bill Kirlin-Hackett, St. Luke's in Bellevue; Cynthia Kopperstad, Grace in Des Moines; Sue Logghe, Faith in Bellingham; and Rev. Jim Rismiller, Lord of Life in Renton. Bishop Wm Chris Boerger will attend ex-officio.

The ELCA 2003 Churchwide Assembly will be held August 11-17 in Milwaukee, Wisc. Visit the Churchwide Assembly website at www.elca.org/assembly/03/.

ELCA Church Council Decision

In April 2002 the ELCA Church Council made a decision related to the provision for *Congregation Observers* at the 2003 Churchwide Assembly.

Congregation Observers

Each congregation of the ELCA may register one congregation observer for the Churchwide Assembly prior to May 31 in the year of the Churchwide Assembly. Registration is through the ELCA Office of the Secretary. Provision will be made for these observers to have reserved seating in the observer section of the plenary hall. These observers will receive a copy of the report of recommendations for assembly action. Observers will have neither voice nor vote in plenary sessions of the assembly. A registration fee will be charged.

(For the full details of this action by the Church Council, please visit www.elca.org/os/churchcouncil/Actions20020409.pdf.)

Ministry, Vocation and Family Workshop

Consultation to Clergy and the Bishops of Region 1 offer the highly acclaimed *Ministry, Vocation and Family Workshop* from April 7 through 9 at Gethsemane in Seattle.

This workshop will be led by experienced counselor Larry Gaffin, who is skilled in helping church professionals clarify their vocational, family and personal goals.

Cost is $275 and covers the cost of pre-session testing materials and an individual session with Larry Gaffin. Funding assistance may be available.

For more information, please contact Rev. Eldon Olson, Interim Director of Consultation to Clergy, 911 Stewart St., Seattle, WA 98101, or voice mail at 206-623-8193. In order to allow time for pre-workshop testing and evaluation, all registrations must be received by March 10, 2003.

Giving Away

Camano Lutheran Church has a Hobart 3 compartments (2 refrigerator/ 1 Freezer unit). The congregation is replacing it and would like to find a home for the old one. Also a Hobart dishwasher. Please call Bill Wagner 360 387-3139 or the church office 360 629-4592 for more details if interested.

Joyful Noise

Joyful Noise, an event that focuses on youth and family ministry, will take place February 14-15 at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah. Contact Linda Zinter, FOYM Registrar, Trinity Lutheran College, 425-961-5544 or ministry@tlc.edu or www.tlc.edu/.cyfcenter.

LIRS and Wheat Ridge in Partnership

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) in partnership with Wheat Ridge Ministries in Itasca, Ill, is offering financial assistance to Lutheran congregations to encourage the development of support services for immigrants and refugees.

These competitive grants are being made available through the Good Samaritan Fund. The Fund offers seed grants with congregations expected to contribute at least 25 percent of the project cost, either through cash or in-kind support. Funding priority will be given to projects that demonstrate key criteria. In 2002 a total of $85,500 was granted to 19 churches.

Deadline for receipt of applications is February 28, 2003. To review the criteria and to download the application packet please visit www.lirs.org, or contact LIRS Director for Alumni and Volunteer Development Denise Peterson at dpeterson@lirs.org.

News and Notes

- **Lutheran Community Services** website continues to grow. Visit www.lcsnw.org to learn more about LCS offices and services in Washington, Oregon & Idaho and to read Bruce Strade's inspirational *Family Values* series.
- Reminder: The three questions that were discussed by the ELCA Synod Assemblies in 2002 have been compiled and posted on the ELCA website. **The responses from the voting members of the Northwest Washington Synod** can be found at www.elca.org/planning/1b or go to the Synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on 2002 Synod Assembly.
- If you need information about the Synod or ELCA, then check out the **Synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org**. You will find the information you need, and if you don't, please let us know. The Synod Communication Committee is constantly updating and changing the site. Our goal is to make the site easy to understand for both the churched and unchurched. What are the newest items that have been added? You can now easily add your congregation's special events to the Synod website calendar as well as job opportunities. Share your news!
- Please join in the **ecumenical prayer vigil** for the Christian communities in Jerusalem, for all those who are suffering in the Holy Land, for Palestinians and Israelis, and for peace in the Middle East and the world. The vigil is organized by state. **People in the Northwest Washington Synod are invited to focus on the Middle East in their daily prayers on the 18th of each month.** For more information about the prayer vigil or about Jerusalem and the Middle East, go to www.loga.org. A new web page is also available on the ELCA website at www.elca.org/middleeast.
- **Africa and the Middle East Advocacy Days—February 23 through 26 in Washington, DC**. This is an educational and advocacy event for people of faith committed to working for just U.S. policies toward Africa and the Middle East. Registration is $80. For more information visit www.loga.org/advocacy2003.htm.
- How can members learn more about the ELCA and how we are sharing our blessings around the world? By subscribing to ***The Lutheran* magazine**. Individual rate is $15.95. (Group rates are available.) For group rates contact Patrick Gibbons, *The Lutheran* magazine, at 1-800-426-0115, ext. 140. For individual rates 1-800-328-4648.
- **Women of the ELCA** seeks proposals from not-for-profit organizations that view people and communities as assets rather than as objectives. Deadline for receiving proposals for the **Grants Program 2003** is Feb. 15, 2003. For more information go to www.elca.org/wo/grants.html.

Within Our Family

***Within Our Family** depends upon you--not only for prayers, but also your prayer requests. Please contact the Synod office with any additions to this column.*

To Keep in Our Prayers....

† **The Rev. Mark Saline, Harbour Pointe in Mukilteo,** who is recovering from cataract surgery.

† **The Rev. Paul Swanson, Bishop of the Oregon Synod, his wife and family.** Bishop Swanson suffered a heart attack on Jan. 10 and had a single by-pass surgery on Jan. 12. Cards may be sent to the Oregon Synod office at 2800 N. Vancouver, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97227. Email messages may be sent to oregonsynod@qwest.net. Bishop Swanson will probably be out of the office at least six weeks.

† The family of **The Rev. Olin Dasher (ret.).** Rev. Dasher passed away on Dec. 20, 2002. He was born in Guyton, Georgia, on May 30, 1914. He attended Newberry College in Newberry, North Carolina, graduating in 1939. He attended Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. He graduated from seminary and was ordained in 1942. He married Lillian Cooper in 1944. He served as a chaplain in the US Navy (1942-46), pastor at Redeemer in Tacoma (1946-51). pastor at Redeemer in Portland (1951-55), pastor at St. Marks in Seattle (1955-66) and pastor at St. Peter by the Sea in Edmonds ('66-81). He retired in 1981. Peace to his memory.

† **The family of Marilyn Joy Grube**. Marilyn passed away on Dec. 6, 2002. She was the wife of the **Rev. Clair Grube (ret.)**.

† **The Rev. Ed Kasten (ret.)**. recovering from hip surgery.

† **Isabelle Swanson, wife of Rev. Roland Swanson (ret.),** recovering in the Care Center at Emerald Heights, Redmond.

† **Ruth Darrah, wife of the Rev. John Darrah (ret.),** recovering from hip replacement.

† **The Rev. Eric Ranum** is receiving radiation treatments at the MayoClinic in Rochester, Minn, for his brain tumor. Updates on his condition are pasted at www.Trinitylutheran-cda.org. Please continue to keep Eric and his family in your prayers.

† **The Rev. Robert Moylan (ret.)** as he deals with progressive muscular dystrophy.

† **The Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.)** as he learns to do new things.

† For **Church of the Apostles (COTA), the new mission start led by Lutheran pastor Rev. Karen Ward.** Services are at 5 p.m. on Saturdays at St. John United, 5515 Phinney Ave. N. in Seattle, and at 3 p.m. on Sundays at St. Thomas Episcopal , 8398 NE 12th St. in Medina.

† For all the **rostered leaders and congregations** both within our Synod and in the ELCA.

Singin' and Dancin' On The Ridge

"Taking a page" from Garrison Keillor who participated in a dancing and singing festival in Moorehead, Minn, Dikka Ballantine of St. John United in Seattle is organizing a similar event.

Singin' and Dancin' On The Ridge will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. on May 4 at St. John United, 5515 Phinney Ave N, Seattle. *The Hot Lattes* is a country band who will lead the group in song and dance. (Al Roehl, Associate in Ministry at University in Seattle, organizes the band.) Simple food and plenty of music is the theme for the day. For more information contact St. John United at 206-784-1040.

Resource Center News

Sex as God's Gift—A Decision Making Guide for Young Teens

This six-part series has been developed for 14 and 15 year-olds to prepare them for the sexual decisions they will face. The series features Mary Ronan, a registered nurse who has worked with teens for more than ten years. A leader's Guide with reproducible worksheets is included. To reserve your video contact the Region 1 Resource Center at 206-624-0093, ext 100. Ask for V-1282.

The six 25-minute programs are: Making Good Decisions; STD's and pregnanacy; The reality of teen pregnancy; Sexuality as a gift; Relationships; and Common questions teens have.

Soundings

News and information for pastors, associates in ministry, lay leaders and ecumenical friends of the

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(Permission is granted for congregations to copy information in Soundings .)

Deadline for the March 2003 issue of Soundings and The Spirit is Monday, Feb. 3. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; fax: 360-435-5955; email: mpeiffle@msn.com; or telephone 360-403-9870.